

OUR POWER IS PUT AT 50 SLAVES EACH

Dr. Karl Compton Says Nation's Artificial Strength Equals That of 6 Billion Men.

SEES NO EFFECT ON JOBS

Butler, at Dinner of Columbia Engineers, Says the School Needs 'Selected' Scholars.

Engineering advances have made available in this country 6,000,000,000 manpower, "equivalent to fifty slaves for each man, woman and child." Dr. Karl T. Compton, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, estimated last night in discussing the relation between mechanization and unemployment.

The machine has neither decreased nor increased unemployment, Dr. Compton said. He spoke at the annual dinner of the Columbia Engineering Schools Alumni Association at the Columbia University Club, 4 West Forty-third Street. Another speaker was Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of the university.

Dr. Butler, describing the tasks lying before the university's School of Engineering, said the school must try to obtain the best and most modern equipment for advanced teaching and research, and the most competent men "to be found anywhere to guide the carefully selected students on Morningside Heights."

Dr. Compton predicted that "there is going to be keener competition between men for jobs in the future because all cannot 'go West,' but there is going to be more of a premium on well-trained men than there has been in the past."

Effect of the Machine Age.

"The machine has released man from the work he had to do to go out and do new work," he said. Citing the automobile industry, he pointed out that in 1900 the horse and carriage industry employed fewer than a million workmen, while in 1930 the automobile industry employed 2,409,000, exclusive of the service industries.

The industry was directly or indirectly responsible for the employment of between twenty-five and thirty million workers, he said, pointing out that 203,000 were employed on roads in 1920 and 339,000 in 1930.

"The great problem of the engineering schools is that branches of science have been coming along at such a rapid pace the schools are faced with the difficulties of becoming too complex," he said. "Industries themselves are training scientists in peculiar techniques which the students will have to learn after they have become engaged in industry."

Dr. Compton paid a tribute to the metropolitan press of New York for its coverage of scientific news.

"Everybody admits that the press is the greatest institutional institution in the country," he said. "With increasing interest in scientific subjects, the press is becoming a great educational institution in the spread of information on those subjects."

He praised Columbia for having furnished more members of the Brain Trust than any two other institutions and credited Dr. Butler with having placed the university in a position in which it could make that contribution to government.

Two Leaders honored.

Honorary memberships in the Columbia Engineering Schools Alumni Association were conferred upon Thomas Henry Harrington, for forty years a member of the engineering faculty, and Daniel Edward Moran, called the dean of American foundation engineers. Mr. Moran was honored on his seventieth birthday and the fiftieth anniversary of his graduation from Columbia. Edward C. Meagher, '21, was elected president of the association, succeeding Edmund A. Prentis, '06, who presided.

Dr. Butler recalled the founding of the famous School of Mines at Columbia, which was intended to be a graduate school for study and research in mining engineering, seventy years ago.

After crediting Benjamin B. Lawrence, a trustee of the university with the work of pioneering the School of Engineering, Dr. Butler added:

"The problem of the present-day School of Engineering is, therefore, much the same, *mutatis mutandis*, as was the problem of the original School of Mines. It is to find a carefully selected body of students who have laid the foundations of a liberal education in the American college and who have such fundamental training in mathematics, in physics and in chemistry that they can enter intelligently and alertly upon the study of engineering problems, with a view after graduation to becoming genuine leaders of their calling or research workers in the field of their choice.

"What the School of Engineering needs today and will always need is the best and most modern equipment for advanced teaching and research, and the best and most competent men to be found anywhere to guide the carefully selected students who come to Morningside to occupy themselves in this field of endeavor.

"We are fortunate, indeed, in the distinction which so many of our staff have attained and in the important contributions which they are making not only year by year but almost month by month to our scientific and engineering knowledge."

--Compton, Karl T., "OUR POWER IS PUT AT 50 SLAVES EACH; Dr. Karl Compton Says Nation's Artificial Strength Equals That of 6 Billion Men." New York Times, 29 April 1934.

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